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PATENT



Attorney's Docket No. 8151-24A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re: Hanley, Jr. et al.
Appl. No.: 09/560,288
Filed: April 27, 2000
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING HUMAN
INTERVERTEBRAL DISC CELLS

Group Art Unit: 1633
Examiner: Kerr, J.

January 7, 2002

15/c
M.Q.
3/7/02

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please cancel Claims 10, 11, 13-15 and 18-34.

Please add the following new claims:

35. (New). A therapeutic composition for use in treating human disc diseases comprising a carrier in admixture with *in vitro* propagated human intervertebral disc cells, said disc cells being prepared by a method comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a minced human intervertebral disc tissue explant from the group consisting of annulus disc cells, nucleus disc cells and mixtures thereof;
 - b) culturing said minced explant under conditions to propagate and form a monolayer of human intervertebral disc cells;
 - c) isolating the human intervertebral disc cells from said monolayer;
 - d) seeding said isolated cells in said carrier such that the isolated cells are dispersed and distributed in the carrier forming a three-dimensional structure; and
 - e) culturing said dispersed and distributed cells in said three-dimensional structure.